

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-40 (Cancelled).

Claim 41 (New): An enciphered data processing system in which a server and an image forming apparatus are coupled to a terminal apparatus via a network, comprising:

said server comprising,

an enciphering unit configured to generate an enciphered data by subjecting data to an enciphering process such that the enciphered data is decipherable by said image forming apparatus but is not decipherable by said terminal apparatus when a request for said data is received from said terminal apparatus, and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the enciphered data to said terminal apparatus;

said terminal apparatus comprising,

a relay unit configured to transmit the enciphered data received from said server to said image forming apparatus;

said image forming apparatus comprising,

a deciphering unit configured to decipher the enciphered data received from said terminal apparatus, and

a printing unit configured to print deciphered data on a recording medium,

wherein said data is transported in an enciphered state on said network and within said terminal apparatus.

Claim 42 (New): An enciphered data processing system in which a server and an image forming apparatus are coupled to a terminal apparatus via a network, comprising:

said server comprising,

an enciphering unit configured to generate an enciphered data by subjecting data to an enciphering process decipherable by said image forming apparatus but not decipherable by said terminal apparatus when a request for said data is received from said terminal apparatus, and

a transmitting unit configured to transmit the enciphered data to said terminal apparatus;

said terminal equipment comprising,

a relaying unit configured to transmit the enciphered data received from said server to said image forming apparatus;

said image forming apparatus comprising,

a deciphering unit configured to decipher the enciphered data received from said terminal apparatus,

a processing part configured to update operating software of said image forming apparatus or renew the operating software using the deciphered data, and

a printing unit configured to print the deciphered data on a recording medium,

wherein said data is transmitted in an enciphered state on said network and within said terminal apparatus.

Claim 43 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 41, wherein:

said server further comprises

a requesting unit configured to transmit a request to said terminal apparatus for an enciphering key used for said enciphering process when the request for said data is received from said terminal apparatus;

said terminal apparatus further comprises

a second relaying unit configured to transmit the request for said enciphering key to said image forming apparatus when the request for said enciphering key is received from said server, and

a key relaying unit configured to transmit said enciphering key received from said image forming apparatus to said server; and

said image forming apparatus further comprises

a key generating unit configured to generate said enciphering key, and

a key transmitting unit configured to transmit said enciphering key to said terminal apparatus when said enciphering key is requested from said terminal apparatus.

Claim 44 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 43, wherein said key generating unit of said image forming apparatus generates information unique to said image forming apparatus as said enciphering key.

Claim 45 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 43, wherein said key generating unit of said image forming apparatus generates said enciphering key based on information unique to said image forming apparatus and a random variable.

Claim 46 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 41, wherein:

said terminal apparatus further comprises

a automatic requesting unit configured to automatically request, from said image forming apparatus, an enciphering key used for said enciphering process after requesting the data, and

a key relaying unit configured to transmit the enciphering key received from said image forming apparatus; and

said image forming apparatus further comprises

a key generating unit configured to generate the enciphering key, and

a key transmitting unit configured to transmit said enciphering key to said terminal apparatus when said enciphering key is requested from said terminal apparatus.

Claim 47 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 42, wherein:

said server further comprises

a requesting unit configured to transmit a request to said terminal apparatus for an enciphering key used for said enciphering process when the request for said data is received from said terminal apparatus;

said terminal apparatus further comprises

a second relaying unit configured to transmit the request for said enciphering key to said image forming apparatus when the request for said enciphering key is received from said server, and

a key relaying unit configured to transmit said enciphering key received from said image forming apparatus to said server; and

said image forming apparatus further comprises

a key generating unit configured to generate said enciphering key, and

a key transmitting unit configured to transmit said enciphering key to said terminal apparatus when said enciphering key is requested from said terminal apparatus.

Claim 48 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 47, wherein said key generating unit of said image forming apparatus generates information unique to said image forming apparatus as said enciphering key.

Claim 49 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 47, wherein said key generating unit of said image forming apparatus generates said enciphering key based on information unique to said image forming apparatus and a random variable.

Claim 50 (New): The enciphered data processing system as claimed in claim 42, wherein:

said terminal apparatus further comprises

a automatic requesting unit configured to automatically request, from said image forming apparatus, an enciphering key used for said enciphering process after requesting the data, and

a key relaying unit configured to transmit the enciphering key received from said image forming apparatus; and

said image forming apparatus further comprises

a key generating unit configured to generate the enciphering key, and

a key transmitting unit configured to transmit said enciphering key to said terminal apparatus when said enciphering key is requested from said terminal apparatus.